
CENTRAL REGION COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE SERVICES

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2002

12:30 p.m.

Presiding: Jane Reister Conard, Chair

Present: Susan Archibeque, Edward Armour, Cynthia Brothers, Jan Cook, Greg Diven, Norman Fitzgerald, Kathleen Gage, Stephen Goodrich, Bo Hall, Brad Maughan, Kerry Steadman, Karen Silver (representing Erin Trenbeath Murray), Russ Thelin, Dean Walker, Megan Weisen, Commissioner Gene D. White and Councilman David Wilde.

Excused: Julie Zimmerman

Absent: Allan Ayoub, Brent Goodfellow, Paul Jackson, Douglas Johnston, Richard Justice, Karen Mecham and Stephen Ronnenkamp.

Honored Guests-

Utah State Legislators Representative Chad Bennion, Representative James Gowans, Representative Wayne Harper, Representative Steven Mascaro and Representative Carol Spackman Moss

Guests/Volunteers: Chris Bray, Charles Daud and John Hill.

Staff: Kim Auberger, Sarah Brenna, Leno Franco, Diane Lovell, Laurel Morris, Melissa Olsen, Ken Serre, Marlo Wilcox and Verene Froisland.

Call to Order, Introductions & Announcements

Jane Reister Conard called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. Jane then welcomed and introduced Representative Carol Spackman Moss, Representative Chad Bennion, Representative Wayne Harper, Representative James Gowans and Representative Steven Mascaro as honored guests from the Legislature. Jane thanked them for taking time from their busy schedules to join the Council. The Council members then introduced themselves to the guests.

Jane noted that Raylene Ireland will not be able to attend today's meeting as was previously announced because she needs to be at a funeral. Jane told Raylene that she has a standing invitation to come to any of the Council's meetings at her convenience.

Jane stated that Karen Mecham was recognized by the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce at the Women in Business Conference as one of the five women of achievement in the community. Jane then congratulated Karen for her accomplishment. (Karen was not present.)

Jane stated that on November 4th the Central Region was the host to the website launch for jobs.utah.gov. The new website is a wonderful tool for job seekers. Jane then noted that the launch took place at UPS and asked Steve Goodrich to make a few comments.

Steve represents UPS and stated that it was a wonderful opportunity to host the launch of the new website. Steve then stated that he appreciated Jane being there as well as Governor

Leavitt. A demonstration of the website showed that it will provide opportunities for both those seeking employment and employers.

Jane also noted that job seekers can post their resume on the website for employers to view and that there are linkages to other job sites as well. Already, there are approximately 79,000 resumes and 10,000 job orders.

Jane stated that the State Council Chair of Chairs held their teleconference recently. The teleconference focused primarily on child care and efforts through the Office of Child Care to motivate employers to have on-site child care. Jane then stated that there will be more about this issue in the new year.

Jane stated that she was able to participate with Brad Maughan and many of the staff of the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) in hosting a team from the General Accounting Office of the Federal Government. The South County Employment Center is one of thirteen one-stop centers from around the country nominated for an award. The General Accounting team is visiting to assess how well the one-stop center works and how well the Workforce Investment Act is being implemented. The team seemed very pleased with how well things are going in Utah.

Brad stated that he is certain that the team recognizes Utah as a leader in the one-stop process.

Russ Thelin stated that he too felt that the team was pleasantly surprised and quite impressed with the partnershiping that takes place within the South County Employment Center of the various entities and agencies that work together to synergistically provide services to individuals.

Jane announced that the official opening of the West Valley Facility was held yesterday and asked Laurel Morris to make a few comments.

Laurel, Manager of the West Valley Employment Center, stated that it was very exciting to open for business. This new facility serves customers who live in the West Valley and Magna areas. Some of these customers, in the past, have had to go to the Downtown Employment Center at the Expo Mart. Laurel then stated that she has received so many positive comments from customers about having an employment center in their area. Laurel announced that the Grand Open House for the West Valley Employment Center would be Tuesday, January 7th and invited everyone to attend.

Jane announced some meeting changes for January. She stated that the Executive Committee Meeting would be Wednesday January 8th at Noon. She then stated that the State Council has scheduled their meeting on the Central Region Council's regular meeting day, Thursday, January 23rd. Since there are five Thursday's in January, Jane proposed that the Council meet on Thursday, January 30th.

Norm Fitzgerald stated that last month the local SCORE Chapter lost the training room that they were going to use. On very short notice SCORE was able to obtain space at DWS. Norm then presented a letter to Brad from the Chapter Chair and the Training Supervisor for SCORE stating that DWS is to be commended for helping the Chapter in reserving a room quickly and one that fully met their needs. Certificates of appreciation were given to Brad, Shelly Street and Kent Naisbitt as a token of SCORE's pleasure and gratitude. Norm continued by stating that a

letter was also sent to Raylene to advise her of their appreciation. Norm noted that Diane Lovell was also quite involved and thanked her for her assistance.

Brad stated that it was the Department's pleasure to assist SCORE and wished that he could take the credit. Brad stated that he has a wonderful group of people he works with that knows customer service and they deserve the credit. Brad then thanked Norm for the recognition.

Approval of Minutes

Norm moved to approve the minutes of Thursday, October 24, 2002. Kathleen Gage seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Kerry Steadman moved to approve the minutes of Thursday, November 12, 2002. Susan Archibeque seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Department of Workforce Services and Council Overview

Steve made sure that everyone had a Legislative Presentation Packet and then turned the time over to Sarah Brenna to review the information.

Sarah, Legislative Liaison for DWS, stated that the Legislative Presentation Packet is done every year to educate internal Department people, new Legislators or Legislators that have oversight over our Department. The packet gives some background of the Department, it talks about our budget, our governance structure, our history and some actual bullet points of the Legislation that the Department is pursuing this year. Sarah continued by stating that our Workforce Services and Economic Development Interim Committee have passed all of our Legislation that the Department is sponsoring this year. There are four Bills that the Department is sponsoring this year. There are: Workforce Services Amendments 2003 sponsored by Senator Scott Jenkins; Employment Security Act Modifications 2003 sponsored by Representative Merlynn Newbold; Child Care Amendments sponsored by Senator Beverly Evans and one other Bill that is not in the packet, Workforce Service Overpayments Amendments sponsored by Representative Jeff Alexander. Sarah reviewed each Bill with the Council members and then stated that the Legislative Session starts January 20th and that she will keep the Council posted as the Bills are heard.

Steve thanked Sarah for the great job that she does in helping the Council understand the Bills and keeping them up to date.

1000-Day Plan Update

Jane referred to the blue sheet in the Council packet as she gave an update on the 1000-Day Plan. She stated that the 1000-Day Plan is a statewide initiative to keep Utah moving and to take advantage of the energy after the Olympics. The Central Region Council set up some goals and action steps within the Department of Workforce Services goals. Jane then highlighted the accomplishments that the Council had for this year. Eight action steps have been completed. Four action steps were completed from Goal #1 which is to "Maximize system responsiveness and efficiency". Two action steps were completed from Goal #2 which is to "Augment the workforce with educated, skilled and work-ready workers". Two action steps were completed from Goal #3 which is to "Measure and market the workforce". Jane noted that the Council is moving forward and we do want to celebrate the successes of the last year. Jane then encouraged everyone to work on completing the other action steps that are outstanding in the upcoming year.

Councilman David Wilde spoke about the action step to join five Area Chambers and asked how it was decided which five the Council should join out of the 11 Area Chambers.

Kathleen responded by stating that the decision was based on the ease and cost of the applications and how well established each Chamber was.

Norm stated that he is interested in knowing where the training dollars are being spent.

Jane responded by stating that she will note Norm's request for consideration in our January meeting.

Jan Cook asked if Jane Gardner would be presenting her goals and milestones to the Council at the January meeting.

Jane noted that the Executive Committee would discuss which upcoming meeting would be the best to invite Jane Gardner to address the Council.

Committee/Staff Reports

Membership – Jane asked for a motion to approve the memberships of the following new members Deirdre Darby Duffin, Charles Daud and John Hill.

Ed Armour moved to approve the memberships of Deirdre Darby Duffin, Charles Daud and John Hill. Norm seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Jane welcomed the new members and stated that the Council looks forward to working with them. Jane then stated that there are still two vacancies – one is for a large business (over 100 employees) and the other is for public employees. Jane then noted that a representative from the Utah Education Association is being considered for the public employees vacancy. Jane continued by stating that she is looking forward to getting the committees convened at our meeting on January 30th and that she would like to see each person participating on a committee. Jane then made a plea for members to join the Facilities Committee and the Finance Committee.

Basic Needs – There was no report at this time.

Government Relations – Steve and Sarah reported earlier in the meeting.

Training & Development – Norm moved to recommend that the application for Healing Mountain Massage School be forwarded to the State for their approval. Ed seconded the motion. All voted "Aye". The motion passed.

Norm stated that there was a low level of registrations recently for Supervising Today's Workforce. Diane asked Norm if she should cancel the classes. Norm stated that the classes should not be canceled even though it will cause a negative cash flow between \$500 and \$700 because he felt that the continuity of the program was more important. Norm then noted that the budget would be able to cover the negative cash flow.

Diane stated that she is pleased to report that, following Norm's advice, another announcement was sent out encouraging employers in our database to sign up for the classes. As a result, there is an additional five or six more registrations for all classes and it looks as though we are now going to break even.

Norm thanked Diane for going to the extra effort in making the additional announcement.

Chris Bray stated that she recently attended a Supervising Today's Workforce class and she felt that it was excellent. Chris then stated that in trying to pay with a credit card it was a process that could use some improvement. Chris continued by stating that she spoke with someone after the class about signing up for Supervising Today's Workforce II. The person indicated that some information would be sent to her and she never received it.

Jane thanked Chris and noted that her concerns will be looked into.

Facilities – Norm stated that the West Valley Employment Center opened on December 4th. A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued from West Valley and it has also been reviewed by the Mechanical Engineer who indicated that it meets all of the contractor's specifications. Norm then stated that all concerns that were raised have been addressed. Norm then stated that it was the contractor's intent to have a bus stop at the new facility in West Valley by the time it opened. So far, it has not occurred and the request is being pursued with UDOT. Norm stated that he wrote a personal letter expressing his feelings that a stop should be near the new facility.

Norm continued by stating that the Facilities Committee had a meeting with staff to review the top priorities. Up to that point, the priority has been to expand to the south and southwest part of the valley. Now, conditions have arisen at the Tooele Employment Center that makes further expansion of that facility top priority. A meeting will be scheduled in Tooele very soon to see what options are available.

Norm stated that staff is still deciding what to do about the Downtown Employment Center. Staff is also gathering demographics for the south area so that we can determine where the most appropriate locations should be for further expansion. Norm noted that the information should be available soon.

Jane expressed her appreciation to Marlo Wilcox who responded to the Council's concerns about the structural integrity of the West Valley building. Marlo assures the Council that all concerns were heard and addressed.

Marlo stated that UDOT is being pressured to place a bus stop near the West Valley facility. He was told that it would happen but that they didn't meet again until January.

Marketing – Kathleen thanked Ed for filling in during her absence. Kathleen then spoke regarding the Area Chambers and stated that up to this point membership in the Chambers has not been effective because there were a lot of changes within the Council which put a lot of things on hold. Kathleen then asked Diane to send a message out to all of the Council members and find out if they would like to get updates of what is going on in each Chamber that we belong to so that everyone can participate. Kathleen continued by stating that the primary job of the Marketing Committee is to raise the visibility of the services provided by DWS and the Central Region Council. One of the ways that we have been talking about doing that is by organizing an event to take place in the next few months. Kathleen then turned some time over to Kim Auberger to discuss this event.

Kim stated that in the past DWS has partnered with the regional council's to hold our yearly employer conference. The conference is being considered for sometime in April or May. The

conference will be expanded from an employer conference to a workforce summit and employer conference that will be a full day event. The morning would be dedicated to the workforce summit where we will partner with educational, economic and business partners. The afternoon would be dedicated to the employer conference that will include some breakout sessions to meet the needs of our business and community educational partners. Kim then stated that the top ten family-friendly companies through the DWS office of Child Care would be recognized at the conference. Kim concluded by stating that the event is still in the development stages so as more meetings are held she will give updates to the Council.

Kathleen stated that one of the things that she has been able to do to promote the top ten companies and the conference is by writing her column for the Enterprise newspaper. Her monthly article has gotten a really good response from the community because people are interested in becoming a top ten company. Kathleen then spoke concerning Supervising Today's Workforce and noted that the National Speaker's Association did a nation wide survey to find out what has happened in the industry the past year. On an average, most training companies have indicated that their business has gone down about 50%. Kathleen stated that one of the keys to the success of Supervising Today's Workforce is for DWS and the Council to really show that there is a benefit for these people coming to the training.

Youth Council – Bo Hall stated that the Youth Council has a significant part of the Central Region's 1000-Day Plan. As a result, a subcommittee has been created to work just on the objectives. Bo stated that the subcommittee would be meeting more frequently than the Youth Council itself to accelerate their efforts. Bo then stated that at the last Youth Council meeting there were two presentations made that were really informative in terms of resources that exist in the community. Sandy Hemmert from the Granite School District made a presentation and talked quite a bit about school based services. Jim Anderson, Principal of the Horizonte Center, spoke next. Bo stated that it was pretty amazing to hear the diversity and the challenges he has in operating that school with such a wide multitude of people. Bo concluded by stating that he was really impressed by both those presentations and the commitment their agencies have to people.

Jane stated that Jim Anderson's presentation was very impressive. There are 39 different languages that are represented by the students at Horizonte. The school accommodates the nontraditional students. Jane then stated that she would like to invite any interested Council members to attend the Youth Council meetings because they are very educational and informative. If anyone is interested, she will make sure that you get the meeting times and dates.

Fiscal Report – Leno Franco stated that the Department is doing well with their expenditures. We are also happy with the progress that is being made in increasing our FTE's so that we can meet the needs of our customers.

Finance – There was no report at this time.

Regional Director's Report

Brad announced a new division within the Department of Workforce Services, which is the Division of Workforce Development and Information. A new Deputy Director, Darin Brush, will head up that particular division. Brad then stated that he is extremely happy that the new West Valley facility is now open. He is even happier that the new facility will be partnered with UCAT. Brad then stated that he is the happiest that Laurel Morris is the manager. Brad continued by stating that Central Region continues to lead all regions in Food Stamp Accuracy. Central

Region just had another 100% month. Brad then stated that due to a recent State audit there have been some policy clarifications in WIA and child care. These policy clarifications will have to be retrofitted into any open cases as of January 1st, which is going to cause extra work for the employment counselors. Brad then noted that the Department has agreed to fund onsite child care at the two facilities for the remainder of the year. Brad concluded by stating that volume is up significantly and that there has been a 10% increase statewide.

Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

New Business

Karen Silver stated that UTA is inviting public comments and holding focus groups about their strategic plan of services through April. Karen also stated that a request for grant's has been put out for groups interested in doing cultural integration projects and limited English proficiency adult basic education projects. Karen then stated that the WIA Strategic State Plan was out for public comment. She then encouraged the Council to review the plan to see if anything needed to be modified.

Jan stated that there are some new statistics that have done across the Country about job development and for the first time in a number of years Utah is showing an insignificant number of jobs that we are going to have in the State. Jan then noted that this topic would probably be good to address at the summit that will be held in conjunction with the employer conference next year.

Jane stated that if anyone wanted to make comments on the UTA's Strategic Plan or the WIA Strategic State Plan, addresses will be available at the January meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.